**4-H Canada Report**

**November 2023**

Members must be 16 as of the trip to apply for the National Conferences. Leaders and members must have been involved in the program for at least two years before they are eligible to apply for any of the trips. Applications will be emailed to O.L’s and then passed onto members. The following are highlights of the National and International programs that 4-H New Brunswick is involved with in connection with 4-H Canada:

**Conferences:**

***U.S.A. National 4-H Members Conference:*** This event did not run in 2023. There are plans for this conference to return for April 19-24th in Virginia. NB 4-H released an application but had no one apply.

***4-H Canada Citizenship Congress:*** 4-H Canada hosted this event from February 16-20, 2022, in Ottawa, ON. NB 4-H sent 6 members: Lane Findlater, DJ Wolverton and Riley Callahan from River Valley, Katie Makepeace and Emily Randall from Triangle, and Kara Matheson from Sussex Holstein. Sue McLaughlin from River Valley went as their chaperone.

***4-H Canada National Members Forum:*** The 2023 Member’s Forum will be November 26-30th in Calgary, AB. N.B. members to attended are: Marie Folkins from Farm Fresh, Ella Flewelling from River Valley, and Ruth Jones from Irishtown. The chaperone will be Andrea Callahan from River Valley.

***4-H Canada Leadership Summit:*** The 2023 Leadership Summit took place April 28-30th, in Ottawa, ON. NB sent the following delegates: Trevor Ingraham from Big Axe Rangers, Riley and Andrea Callahan from River Valley, Karen Versloot from Keswick, Lisa Frazee, Stacy Matheson, Katrina Cormack, Aimee Nicholle, and Kristy Waalderbos from Sussex Holstein, Alyssa Thorne from Tri-Point, Lori Hall from Chignecto, and Alain Blanchette from Irishtown. Alain was awarded the National Volunteer Leader of the Year Award. Kate Coleman (YAC) from Farm Fresh, and Ally McConchie were also in attendance. Delegates got to participate in several sessions revolving around leader development, STEM learning, and DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion).

**Scholarships:**

***McDonalds Canada Scholarship ($5,000):*** For 4-H members pursuing agriculture education. 8 $5,000 scholarships were available this year. Shianne Simpson from Farm Fresh was awarded one of these scholarships.

***Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers 4-H Scholarship ($500):*** For 4-H members attending University or College in a course that will advance the sheep and wool industry. There were no recipients from New Brunswick.

***John Deere Canada 4-H Scholarships ($1,000):*** For 4-H members in a degree, certificate, or trade-based program. Katie Rae of the Keswick Ridge 4-H Club was a recipient in 2023.

***TD 4-H Agriculture Scholarship ($2,500):*** For 4-H members in an agriculture, ag-science, or agri-business program. Alex Versloot from Keswick Ridge was a recipient this year.

***Leadership Excellence Awards of Distinction (L.E.A.D.) (up to $5,000 per year for 4 years):*** There will be one awarded for each of 4-H Canada’s pillars: Community Engagement and Communications, Science and Technology, the Environment and Healthy Living and Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security. There were no recipients from NB this year.

Most applications for scholarships will open on March 1st, 2024, and close on May 31st, 2024.

**Other Campaigns:** The majority of these programs were designed to be done at home to encourage participation in the 4-H program while Covid-19 still affects all in-person programming.

***Show Your 4-H Colors:*** SY4HC happened on November 1st, 2023. We offered the same photo contest from previous years and had 14 participants. The winners were: Terri Whyte from Napan, Daisy Kirkpatrick from Sussex Holstein and Laughlin Matheson from Sussex Holstein. Their T-Shirts have been ordered.

***Dig into Soil:*** This program is for members aged 8-16. It focuses on soil and becoming familiar with how soils contribute to the environment. The activity book is free to download on the 4-H Canada website.

***Making a Splash:*** This program is geared towards supporting a healthy water ecosystem. It has a free activity book to download on the 4-H Canada website for 4-H leaders, members and families.

***Powered Up:*** This program focuses on alternative, affordable and clean energy. There is a free activity book to download on the 4-H Canada website for 4-H leaders, members and families.

***Proud to be a 4-H’er:*** This program looks at pollinators and how they help create a healthy and sustainable food supply. There is a free activity book to download on the 4-H Canada website for 4-H leaders, members and families.

**Awards:**

***Distinguished Alumni Award:*** This award is presented to someone who shows outstanding leadership and contributions to the 4-H program as an Alumni.

***National Volunteer Leader of the Year Award:*** This award recognizes volunteer leaders that go above and beyond as a 4-H leader. They dedicate time and energy to bettering the 4-H program in their club to help shape their members to be the best they can be. The winning national volunteer will receive $1,000 and an invitation to the 2023 Leadership Summit in Ottawa from April 28-30th, 2023. The provincial winner for each province will win $100 and an additional $100 to use towards a party for their club. Alain Blanchette from Irishtown 4-H Club was the winning leader for 2023.

***Honorary Members:*** This award is presented to an individual who has embodied 4-H values through their life and have delivered outstanding services to one or more levels of the organization.

**Grants:**

***FCC Club Fund Grant:*** This year, there was a total of $100,000 available, with up to $500 available per club. The money can be used to support the club’s programming including local events and exchanges, supporting volunteers, or purchasing resources or materials. The clubs/districts that received this grant this past year from New Brunswick were: Ag-Ventures, Eastern District, River Valley, and Sunbury.

***Current Funding Status:*** NB 4-H was successful in receiving an additional $10,000 to our SCAP annual funding. We will be receiving $75,000 for 2023/2024. We have submitted a proposal to request an additional $70,000 from GNB to support a second bilingual staff member.

**Youth Safety and Risk Management:**

***4-H in Canada Accreditation:*** 4-H New Brunswick achieved Accreditation status in 2021. We received the official letter stating we reached Accreditation status on May 19th, 2021. Our annual check in will happen later in December/early January.

***Youth Safety at 4-H in Canada:*** All volunteers must complete the screening process to be allowed to be involved in the 4-H program. The current training and forms needed are: either New or Returning Leader Form, signed Code of Conduct and Covid-19 Waiver, Interview Questions (only if you are a new leader), an updated Criminal Record Check from the past 3 years, 3 References (if applying to be a new leader), Commit to Kids training (there will be refresher training after three years) and Youth Safety Training (there will be a three year refresher training). 4-H Canada has provided a refresher training course that will be shared with leaders who need to complete it. Moving forward, all new leaders will use the NB 4-H registration platform to complete and upload all documents.